

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SSM-03 IO-13 /078 W

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R 201450Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8411

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1443

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: HEBRON CURFEW ENDS, HARAM OPENED

1. THE CURFEW IMPOSED ON HEBRON FOLLOWING INCIDENTS OF DESECRATION IN THE IBRAHMI MOSQUE OCT 2 AND 3 WAS LIFTED COMPLETELY OCT 19. IT WAS THE LONGEST CURFEW OF THE YEAR IN ANY TOWN ON THE WEST BANK.

2. THE IBRAHIMI MOSQUE WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OCT 20 AFTER REPAIRS HAD BEEN MADE IN BOTH THE HEWISH AND MUSLIM SECTIONS. JEWISH RELIGIOUS ARTICLES DESTROYED OCT 3 HAD BEEN, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, REPLACED. A SPOKESMAND FOR THE ISLAMIC WAQF TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS THAT NO OFFICIAL ACCOUNTING HAD YET BEEN MADE OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS ITEMS, HOWEVER, A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATED THAT THREE ANTIQUE CLOCKS, SEVERAL MANUSCRIPTS WRITTEN IN GOLD AND SOME ORNAMENTS WERE MISSING. THE WAQF AUTHORITY SAID THE ISRAELIS HAD CONFISCATED ALL KEYS TO THE AREA. NO MAYOR PHYSICAL CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE MOSQUE, HOWEVER, A LARGE NUMBER OF

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ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE ON HAND.

3. SECURITY FORCES WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE AVRAM AVINU SYNAGOGUE AND THE FORMER HADASSAH BUILDING TO FORBID ACCESS TO CIVILIANS.

4. COMMENT: HEBRON IS BREATHING A SIGH OF RELIEF AFTER A LONG, UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE. VERY FEW MUSLIMS WERE VENTURING NEAR THE IBRAHIMI MOSQUE UPON ITS RE-OPENING AND IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE MISSING ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS ARTICLES WILL TOUCH OFF RENEWED DEMONSTRATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, A HEBRONITE TOLD US HE THOUGHT PROBLEMS WOULD CONTINUE AS LONG AS SETTLERS FROM KIRYAT ARBA WERE GIVEN FREE REIGN BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TO CONTINUE THEIR ACTIVITIES.
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